



**TENNESSEE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

312 Rosa L Parks Ave, 23rd Floor, Nashville, TN 37243

(615) 741-5825 FAX (615) 253-1886

<http://www.tn.gov/humanrights>

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Susannah Berry

[Susannah.Berry@tn.gov](mailto:Susannah.Berry@tn.gov)

(615) 253-1608

### **Nationally-Recognized Leaders to Reflect on 50 Years of Human Rights Advancements at Commission Celebration**

The Tennessee Human Rights Commission (THRC) will feature a Panel Discussion with Dr. Rip Patton, John Seigenthaler, and Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette at its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Nashville Airport Marriott on October 4, 2013, from 10 am-1:30 pm.

Anne Holt, news anchor at WKRN-TV in Nashville, will moderate the discussion which will be held before the luncheon. These three individuals, who were all active in the civil rights movement, will reflect on how far Tennessee has come since Gov. Frank Clement signed Executive Order 18 in 1963 creating the state's first human relations commission.

Patton, who joined the Student Central Committee of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council while attending Tennessee State University, was a Freedom Rider and committed civil rights activist. Seigenthaler is an award-winning journalist, former editor and publisher of *The Tennessean*, who worked in the early 1960s with former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. Lafayette has been a Civil Rights Movement activist, minister, educator, lecturer and is an authority on non-violent social change strategy.

Honorees to be recognized for their significant contributions to the state are Yvonne Wood of Lebanon; First Baptist Church Capitol Hill, Fred Cloud, Inez Crutchfield, all from Nashville; and Jeanne Varnell of Memphis. A special video will feature reflections from forty-nine human rights advocates who were honored by the Commission across the state this Spring.

Tickets for the event are \$35 (online is \$37 for processing fees). Deadline is September 27. For more information and to order tickets, visit the website at

<http://www.tn.gov/humanrights/50thAnniversary.shtml>

